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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,428	12/28/2000	Isao Yagasaki	826.1657	5687
21171	7590	06/21/2007		
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER SHERKAT, AREZOO	
			ART UNIT 2131	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/21/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/749,428	Applicant(s) YAGASAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner Arezoo Sherkat	Art Unit 2131	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 17-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/11/2006 and 3/22/2007 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/11/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that "Howard is silent regarding any of its affiliate servers generating layout information required for displaying information provided from another affiliate server in a screen of the service server that has generated the layout information and transmitting the generated layout information to the browser of a user" (Remarks, page 5).

Examiner responds that Howard does disclose that after receiving the user's profile, the affiliate server generates a personalized web page for the user and communicates the web page to the user's browsers (i.e., which is in turn displayed at the user's machine to make the affiliates server's services available to the user)(col. 7, lines 54-67 and col. 8, lines 1-43).

In response to applicant's argument that the reference fails to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., any of its affiliate servers generating layout information required for displaying information provided from another affiliate server in a screen of the service server that has generated the layout information and transmitting the generated layout information to the browser of a user) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Applicant further argues that Howard fails to disclose "a service utilizing device receiving the service information of the available services from the certificating unit and providing the terminal unit of the user with layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to the service information of the available services received from the certificating unit, wherein service data respectively supplied by the available services are displayed in the display region" (Remarks, page 5).

Examiner responds that Howard does disclose a service utilizing device (i.e., the client system) receiving the service information (i.e., cookie containing a user profile and a list of all sites/web servers visited by the user since the last logout from the authentication server) of the available services from the certificating unit (i.e., authentication server) and providing the terminal unit of the user with layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to the service information of the available services received from the certificating unit, wherein service data

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respectively supplied by the available services are displayed in the display region (i.e., after receiving the user's profile, the affiliate server generates a personalized web page for the user and communicates the web page to the user's browsers, which is in turn displayed at the user's machine to make the affiliates server's services available to the user)(col. 7, lines 54-67 and col. 8, lines 1-43).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 5 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Howard et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,505 and Howard hereinafter).

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Regarding claim 5, Howard discloses a service unit connectable to a certifying unit and at least one terminal unit, said service unit comprising:

a transmitting device transmitting common certificate information in common with a plurality of services respectively provided by different business organizations (i.e., affiliate servers), when the terminal unit of a user accesses a particular service of the plurality of services, to the certifying unit which manages the common certificate information corresponding to service information of available services that the user can access, without requiring identification information or password information issued by the services (col. 5, lines 44-63 and col. 8, lines 38-44);

a service utilizing device receiving the service information of the available services from the certifying unit and providing the terminal unit of the user with layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to the service information of the available services received from the certifying unit, wherein service data respectively supplied by the available services are displayed in the display region (i.e., after receiving the user's profile, the affiliate server generates a personalized web page for the user and communicates the web page to the user's browsers, which is in turn displayed at the user's machine to make the affiliates server's services available to the user)(col. 7, lines 54-67 and col. 8, lines 1-43); and

a storing device storing the common certificate information and the identification information and the password information for the particular service (col. 3, lines 34-61).

Regarding claim 17, Howard discloses a system for certificating services, comprising:

a service utilizing device receiving service information of available services and providing layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to service information of each of the available services based on a common certificate information, wherein service data respectively supplied by the available services are displayed in the display region (i.e., after receiving the user's profile, the affiliate server generates a personalized web page for the user and communicates the web page to the user's browsers, which is in turn displayed at the user's machine to make the affiliates server's services available to the user)(col. 7, lines 54-67 and col. 8, lines 1-43), and a user terminal receiving the layout data and displaying service information of each of the available services within a display region provided for use in relation to a particular available service (col. 7, lines 12-66 and col. 8, lines 1-44).

Regarding claim 18, Howard discloses a computer readable storage medium having a program recorded therein to cause a computer to execute operations, said operations comprising:

transmitting service information of available services, and in response, providing layout data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to service information of each of the available services based on a common certificate information, wherein service data respectively supplied by the available services are displayed in the display region (i.e., after receiving the user's profile, the affiliate server generates a

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personalized web page for the user and communicates the web page to the user's browsers, which is in turn displayed at the user's machine to make the affiliates server's services available to the user)(col. 7, lines 54-67 and col. 8, lines 1-43), and

receiving the layout data and displaying service information of each of the available services within a display region provided for use in relation to a particular available service (col. 7, lines 12-66 and col. 8, lines 1-44).

Regarding claim 19, Howard discloses a method of certifying services offered by multiple providers, comprising:

determining whether any one of the services of the multiple providers are available to a user by sending an inquiry including a common certificate to a certifying authority (col. 7, lines 10-35); and

providing layout data defining display of service information of a first available service to a terminal of the user based on a result of the inquiry, wherein the layout data is displayed in a single display region and includes service information of a second available service determined to be available based on the result of the inquiry (i.e., the generated personalized web page (of available services allowed for the user)), and wherein service data respectively supplied by the available services are displayed in the display region (i.e., after receiving the user's profile, the affiliate server generates a personalized web page for the user and communicates the web page to the user's browsers, which is in turn displayed at the user's machine to make the affiliates server's services available to the user)(col. 7, lines 54-67 and col. 8, lines 1-43).

Regarding claim 20, Howard discloses a method of certifying services, comprising:

enabling access to a first service server (i.e., authentication server), generating layout information required for displaying information of a second service server (i.e., a particular affiliate server) in a display region displaying service information of the first service server (col. 4, lines 5-67 and col. 5, lines 1-67 and col. 6, lines 1-22), and displaying the generated layout information via a user terminal (col. 6, lines 38-67 and col. 7, lines 1-66).

Conclusion

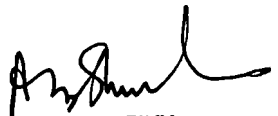
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arezoo Sherkat whose telephone number is (571) 272-3796. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A.S.
Patent Examiner
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June 11, 2007


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